CALPEEK

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A THANKSGIVING VACATION BREAK FOR CALPEEK

We'll be off next week for Thanksgiving, but resume work on Nov. 26th for **Calpeek's** final issue of the year, which will be dated Dec. 3rd. Issue #44 will include the *Who's Hot & Who's Not* column – so email your nominations in ASAP (Calpeek@aol.com). Here's wishing our readers a happy Thanksgiving holiday...

***CAMPAIGN 2001:* BOTH PUBLIC POWER INITIATIVES GO DOWN TO DEFEAT IN S.F. MUNICIPAL ELECTION.**

Editor's note: When **Calpeek** hit deadline last week, our sources were certain that Measure "I" to create a municipal utility district in S.F. & Brisbane had been defeated, but it looked as though *Measure "F"* to create a new S.F. water & power agency was going to pass. But by 11/11/01, Measure F had lost by a slim margin. A very close call for IOU giant PG&E, the target of both local measures. Here's our update & analysis...

...The final tally looks this way: YES on F **49.79%** vs. NO on F at **50.21%**. In raw numbers it was a margin of about **533** votes. The Measure "I" loss was substantial: YES on I **60,107** vs. NO on I at **64,468**. Despite both defeats, advocates for public power vow to try again. In the meantime they're concerned that the integrity of the vote may have been *compromised*. S.F. Co. Bd. of Supes Chair Tom Ammiano is worried that some absentee ballots may have "disappeared" for a while on election night. A logical explanation was offered by election officials, but paranoia sometimes runs deep when fighting a utility giant such as PG&E...

...There were actually two different campaigns being run against Measures F & I. The combined campaign (NO on F & I) was under the umbrella of *The Coalition for Affordable Public Services*, while the NO on I campaign ran under the title of *The Coalition to Stop the $3 Billion Bill*. Combined spending by both groups is expected to go over $2 million. The key difference: The NO on I was primarily backed by a group of private sector labor unions and telecommunications firms who didn't want to be under the control of a MUD. If Measure I had been approved, electricity, water, cable, phone and garbage would have been under this new agency. The key backers of the NO on F & I campaign were PG&E's parent and the business community...

...Of the two measures, "F" was the cliff hanger. Solem & Associates managed the NO on F & I campaign and last week they were concerned about the absentee vote – figuring it might not break their way. But it did. In terms of absentee voting, the strategy was to target 3 key groups of S.F. voters: 1) Asians; 2) Republicans; and 3) 4,000 PG&E shareholders who were IDed as S.F. voters. In the end, it came down to ***unplug PG&E*** vs. ***too costly and too risky***. Put another way, homeowners & voters didn't really trust the authors of Measures F & I. FYI: the NO on I campaign was run by consultants Eric Jaye, Barns Mosher Whitehurst et al and Jim Ross. Stay tuned...

***CAMPAIGN 2002:* Poll Shows Davis' Job Performance Has Improved. GOP Rivals in Messy Debate Brouhaha.**

Editor's note: For the first time since earlier this Spring, CA Gov. Gray Davis' job performance ratings are back up in the mid-50 percent range. And now Davis' 3 key GOP rivals are in a heated debate – over debates. Here's a brief analysis and commentary. Polling data first...

...The latest data comes from the S.F.-based Public Policy Institute of Calif.(PPIC). To the question, *Do you approve or disapprove of the way Gray Davis is handling his job as governor of Calif.?* The response: approve **54%** vs. disapprove **36%**, with 10% no opinion. (A July PPIC survey showed Davis' job performance at 44% approve vs. 45% disapprove). These PPIC numbers are similar to recent data by Fairbank, Maslin & Maullin, who survey regularly for the Gov. Gray Davis Cmt. Their data shows Davis' at *57%* approve vs. *39%* disapprove. The PPIC survey was taken Oct. 22-31 among 2,002 Calif. residents. If the next Field Poll or L.A Times survey shows similar numbers, then it's a

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pretty good bet that in fact Davis has worked his way out of the political dog house with voters…

…In the meantime, two of Davis' GOP rivals are making news about debates. Sec. of State Bill Jones and L.A. businessman Bill Simon Jr. need these joint appearances in the worst way, especially Simon who is almost a total unknown to rank & file GOP voters. Former L.A. Mayor Dick Riordan would just as soon skip the debates – they only help his two key opponents. And always remember consultant Allan Hoffenblum's quote about debates: *The only people who care about debates are candidates who are behind in the polls and the League of Women Voters*…

…Riordan has suggested two debates between Jan. 15th and Feb. 15th – to cover a wide rage of issues. Jones want a series of ***6 regional debates*** – between Jan. 1st and Mar. 1st. Locations would include San Diego, L.A. S.F.-Bay area, Sacramento, Central Valley and a sixth debate in Northern Calif. The push for debates took off after Riordan cancelled an appearance with Jones & Simon in front of the CA Congress of Republicans(CCR). Riordan's campaign said he had a "*scheduling conflict.*" Few really believe that because a few hours after Jones and Simon left the CCR event, Riordan gave a speech to this group. And given Riordan's ability to *open mouth, insert foot, shoot foot*, it's no wonder he ducked the CCR debate appearance…

…Regardless, the CA Assn. of Broadcasters and the CSU system will team up again to provide a platform for debates, in the primary and general election…

…FYI: There are no recent polls on the GOP primary contest, but a number of insiders have seen a Jim Moore survey done in October of 1,000 households. Not the same as likely voters, but it does show SOS Bill Jones within 4 points of Riordan: **34%** to **30%**, with **5%** neither and **31%** no opinion. If this data is close to the mark (and some doubt it) it might suggest that the effort to create a Riordan steamroller isn't working, perhaps due in part to Jones' constant bashing of Riordan's links to Demos, but there may be other reasons as well. Oddly enough, Riordan's response to these attacks has been luke warm at best – and yet there is stuff which Riordan can throw back at Jones…

…Jones has 3 key vulnerabilities: 1) He's never been all that popular with the GOP hardliner base; 2) the "T" word, as in taxes – Jones provided the critical votes for former Gov. Pete Wilson to pass his 1991 budget, which included a huge tax hike ($7 billion); and 3) there's the McCain Factor. Jones bailed on George W. Bush during *Campaign 2000* to support U.S. Sen. John McCain. In Calif., Bush's GOP base is still distrustful of McCain – and Jones. Stay tuned…

CAMPAIGN 2002: **CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.**
Editor's note: Here's a brief update on initiatives appearing the on March primary ballot – and some which are aiming for the November 2002 general election ballot…

♦ ***Prop. 42*** – This is the measure which insures that all the gasoline sales and use taxes go for transportation funding. Despite the fact that this measure is supported by many Demo legislators and Gov. Gray Davis(D), the Calif. Demo Party's Executive Board voted no endorsement – in other words, the CDP's official stance is ***neutral***. Sources believe there might have been a huge fight within the ranks of organized labor had the CDP's E-Board decided to take a vote on endorsing this measure. SEIU and CTA are against this measure, while CA's Building & Construction trade unions are big supporters…

♦ ***Other CDP Endorsements*** – The CDP's E-Board has gone on record in support (YES) on Props. **40** ($2.6 billion park/clean water bond); **41** ($200 million bond to upgrade voting systems throughout Calif.); **43** (Right to Have Vote Counted); **44** (Insurance Fraud); and **45** (Legislative Term Limits – Local Voter Petitions)…

♦ ***Remapping Initiative*** – People's Advocate has filed yet another initiative to have CA's court draw the U.S. House and CA Legislative districts. Ted Costa, CEO of People's Advocate, submitted his *Let the Voters Decide* initiative to the AG's office for title & summary Oct. 26th. Costa hopes to have this measure on the November 2002 ballot. The key question: who is going to finance this initiative??? Costa says he'll know about funding in a few days…

♦ ***Same Day Voter Registration*** – As in the same day as election day. This proposal is at the AG's office for title & summary. Key sponsor of same day registration/ election is Rob McKay of the S.F.-based McKay Foundation. He's a deep pocketed venture capitalist. The language was drafted by election attorneys Lance Olson and Chip Nielsen. Campaign consultant for this effort is Gale Kaufman. This proposal is sure to draw some opposition and fire…

♦ ***Workers Comp Initiative?*** – Sources tell **Calpeek** that plans are underway to draft an initiative for the November 2002 ballot that mirrors SB 71, the workers comp reform bill by Senate President John Burton(D-SF) that was vetoed by Gov. Gray Davis(D). Stay tuned…

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CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

Calpeek's 2001-02 ***Directory of Campaign Consultants*** is now on sale. There are about 300 listings in the Directory. Cost is ***$30***. *Checks only*. No credit cards and no invoicing. Send payment with your name, address, etc. (please type or print clearly) to Calif. Political Week or Calpeek, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. FYI: in most cases we're mailing the Directory in a white 10x13 envelope, with our return address clearly marked on the upper left corner…

CAMPAIGN 2002: **LIST OF STATEWIDE CANDIDATES.**

Editor's note: The following are the names of the serious GOP and Demo Party candidates running for Statewide office. "Serious" means an ability to raise a credible war-chest. No big surprises, except that GOP LG candidate Hugh Hewitt is no longer in the race. Sources say the FCC told him he would have to give up his radio show if he were to stay in the LG race. Next step prior to qualification for the March 2002 primary is the **Declaration of Candidacy** – to be filed Dec. 7th. There are Green, Reform, Libertarian, Natural Law and AIP candidates also running statewide…

GOVERNOR (22 candidates)
Gray Davis(D-Inc)

Richard Riordan(R)
Bill Jones(R)
Bill Simon Jr.(R)

LT. GOVERNOR (8 candidates)
Cruz Bustamante(D-Inc.)

Bruce McPherson(R)

SECRETARY OF STATE (14 candidates)
Michela Alioto(D)
March Fong Eu(D)
Kevin Shelley(D)

Robert K. Olberg(R)
Mike Schaefer(R)

ATTORNEY GENERAL (9 candidates)
Bill Lockyer(D-Inc.)

Dick Ackerman(R)
Gary S. Mendoza(R)

CONTROLLER (10 candidates)
Johan Klehs(D)
Steve Westly(D)

Dean Andal(R)
Tom McClintock(R)

STATE TREASURER (8 candidates)
Phil Angelides(D-Inc.)

Phillip Gregory Conlon(R)
Mary A. Toman(R)

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER (13 candidates)
Thomas A. Calderon(D)
John Garamendi(D)
Tom Umberg(D)

Wes Bannister(R)
Robert Larkin(R)

CAMPAIGN 2002: **CALIF. LEGISLATIVE PRIMARIES.**

Editor's note: Here's another update in our continuing series of repots about key Legislative primary contests…

☒ ***12th SD Update*** – A better name instead would be ***Donnybrook in the 12th SD*** because that's what this primary is shaping up to be – and on both sides. Demos first. The big shock: Chad Condit has entered this primary when it was thought he was finished with the idea of running for office. An even bigger shock for former Assemblyman Rusty Areias, U.S. Rep. Gary Condit's very close friend. Now here's something: Gary Condit's campaign consultant is Richie Ross. And Ross is doing Areias' campaign too. In the legal profession, this would be a conflict, but not in campaign management…

…Others in this Demo primary are Merced Co. Chief Deputy DA Larry Morse and Modesto attorney Armando Flores. Flores is perhaps the most interesting of the entire cast of Demos. He's very popular and knows all of the key political players. He's got a Latino PAC and has done fundraisers for Condit, Cruz Bustamante and Dennis Cardoza. He's considered a moderate and what some sources call a *Valleycrat*. The 12th SD does have a good sized Demo registration edge and at least 70% of all the Demos in the 12th SD are Latino. This seat was specially carved out for Cardoza – but he's running for the 18th CD…

…FYI: Chad Condit's candidacy is considered by some to be ludicrous and a further sign that the Condit family is in a state of denial…

…On the GOP side, former Assemblyman Peter Frusetta is still the frontrunner, but Jeff Denham, who ran and lost in Frusetta's old 28th AD last year, is considered a strong rival. Some conservatives don't care for Frusetta and Denham has been endorsed by State Sen. Ross Johnson…

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☒ *29th AD* – This is an OPEN seat, but the area is still represented by Assemblyman Mike Briggs(R-Fresno), who is leaving this AD early to run for Congress. The 29th AD is heavy GOP turf – meaning Demos need not apply. There are two GOP rivals: Fresno businessman Larry Willey and former congressional aide Steve Samuelian. What's interesting is that before the campaign began to heat up, Samuelian went public with a disclosure he was busted in Sept. 1998 for soliciting – the hooker turned out to be an undercover female cop. This disclosure got lots of coverage, but given what some other elected officials from this area have been caught doing over the years, it's not outrageous…

…Samuelian has backing from his former boss, U.S. Rep. George Radanovich, the Fresno City CRA unit for the 29th AD and State Sen. Dick Monteith, but the hooker bust caused Fresno Mayor Alan Autry to pull his support. In fundraising, Samuelian's recent event reportedly brought in $200,000. Gilliard Blanning & Assoc. are Samuelian's consultants…

…As for Willey, he's a former Madera Co. Deputy Sheriff so you'd better believe Samuelian's past bust will be part of the campaign. In terms of endorsements, Willey is supported by Central Valley rancher/GOP kingmaker John Harris; Fresno Co. Supes Susan Anderson, Judy Case and Bob Waterson; Fresno Co. DA Ed Hunt; Madera Co. DA Ernie LaCalsi; and Madera Co. Sup. John Silva. Willey's campaign is being run by Johnson/Clark Associates. Stay tuned…

CALPPEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting…

■ ***The Condit Watch*** – Is U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D) really running for reelection – or is a *stalking horse* for his former top aide, Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza(D)? There are some who think Condit is **NOT** going to file a Declaration of Candidacy on Dec. 7th – and that his statements and actions to date are just a *ruse* to keep State Sen. Jim Costa(D-Fresno) out in the cold until it's too late. Costa has said he would not run IF Condit were to seek reelection…

■ ***Calif. Sales Tax Goes UP*** – Starting January 1st 2002, the Calif. sales tax will go up by a quarter-cent. The sales tax was actually cut in 2001 because of the State budget surplus. Former Gov. Pete Wilson signed a law which automatically triggers the hike in sales tax if the surplus falls below a certain level. FYI: CA Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill is predicting a $12.4 billion budget deficit for the new fiscal year – unless drastic cuts are made in the current budget. Not good news for Gov. Gray Davis…

■ ***Slates Still a Key to GOP Primary*** – In 1998, little known State Sen. Tim Leslie(R-Roseville) bought all the key GOP slates for the June primary. It was the smartest thing he ever did, because he defeated 3 other rivals, including one with deep pockets. In *Campaign '02*, GOP slates could be just as important. Sources say gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon Jr. has already bought onto several slates, while Board of Equalization candidate Bill Leonard and Controller candidate Dean Andal have already locked up most of the key GOP slates. In fact, Andal paid for a majority of his GOP & taxpayer slates 18 months ago…

■ ***Moreno on November 2002 Ballot*** – Calif.'s newest member of the State Supreme Court, Justice Carlos R. Moreno, 52, will have to face voters a little less than a year from now. Moreno was recently confirmed to the seat left vacant by the death of long-time Justice Stanley Mosk. Politically, Moreno's a big plus for Gov. Gray Davis because Moreno will help to stimulate a big Latino vote in the general election…

■ ***RNC's Gilmore Under Fire*** – VA Gov. Jim Gilmore, who was installed to head the Republican Nat'l Cmt. by Pres. George W. Bush, is under increasing fire for the GOP's losses in the Nov. 6th elections. Gilmore comes from the conservative wing of the GOP and there are some who think a new spokesperson/leader is needed at the RNC. Will the White House dump Gilmore? Perhaps…

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